



## ENVISION ARLINGTON FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP

### Meeting Minutes

7:30 PM 1/20/22

On Line via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Garborino Co-Chair), Jonathan Haughton, Heather Remoff, Janet Pagliuca, Brian Hasbrouck, Nick Lim, Andrew Fischer, Treasurer Collector Phyllis Marshall, Pete Howard (Secretary)

1. No need to review the open meeting guidelines – Everyone has attended these meetings before.

2. Phyllis Marshall, Treasurer Collector was welcomed and introduced. She used a Power Point slide show to guide the attendees through an explanation of the Treasurer Collector responsibilities. The slides are embedded in the notes with some comments based on Phyllis's talk. She answered many questions during her talk. She has a staff of 11.

The Treasurer has additional duties:

Treasurer - Collector Office  
Treasurer – Collector  
Postage  
Parking Collections

As Collector the office prepares bills and receives payments, charging late fees as needed. All bills checked manually before mailing.

- Bill printing and collection– Real Estate– Personal Property
  - Motor Vehicle Excise
  - Water and Sewer
- Collection Fees
  - Parking violation
  - Parking revenue from meters
  - Fees collected by other Town Departments

As Treasurer the office does standard money handling for the Town:

- Management of Cash and Investments
  - Banking, investments, funding of warrants, payment of debt service, cash flow for Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable from State and Federal aid
- Issuance of General Obligation Bonds
  - Preparation of documents required for structure and sale of Town Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs)
  - AAA Bond Rating from Standard & Poor's Rating Agency
  - Borrowing during recent period of interest rate for municipal bonds
- Debt Service structure and reporting
  - Working to plan borrowing as needed for project schedules and spending in

accordance with statutory compliance

The Treasurer provided a summary of the current and expected Town borrowing

- Bond Issues recently
  - \$77,845,000 in FY21 including
- \$21,500,000 Department of Public Works/Town facilities
- \$51,606,000 Arlington High School
- Other projects including: Improvements, Renovations, and Equipment for various departments
  - \$66,190,000 in FY20 including
- \$55,033,000 Arlington High School
- Other projects including: Construction, Renovations, Improvements and Equipment for various departments
- Bond Issue planned
  - FY22 including amounts still needed for continuation of the DPW and AHS with other projects for departments coming up later this month

The Treasurer listed the several jobs not normally assigned to this department:

- Administration of Arlington Citizens Scholarship Foundation
- Support for Capital Planning Committee
- Support for Parking Advisory Committee
- Coordination and maintenance of Parking Meter System
- Postage Operations for all Town Departments

Several other changes were underway when Phyllis was hired. She was able to keep services available despite the pandemic.

- Utility Billing Conversion with DPW and IT departments to integrated software and departments to integrated software and streamline billing, collection, consumption and reporting
- Online Payment services
- Operations during COVID to keep services available

Phyllis was applauded and thanked.

3. Andrew Fisher, a Town Meeting Member, requested some time at a future meeting to discuss self insurance for automobile and home. He provided the slide below with some provocative questions:

What if Arlington self-insured?

Could we fund better prevention activities that reduce our costly claims?

Could we better understand our own behaviors that create property and auto claims?

As a community could we pay less for property and auto insurance?

Could we establish a new source of revenue?

Gordon will work him into a future meeting.

4. The next meeting will be 2/17/22.

## Could auto & property insurance become a revenue source?

Arlington MA data from Fire & Police reports to Town Meeting

Year	Reported Property Loss*	# Car Accidents Reported to Police	# Car Accidents Fire Dept Responded to	% Accidents w/ Fire Response	Estimated total property & auto insurance premiums paid by Arlington policyholders
2020	\$3,144,632	364	107	29%	
2019	\$2,896,766	750	146	19%	
2018	\$4,860,367	740	167	23%	
2017	\$3,186,677	756	168	22%	
2016	\$3,186,677	807	174	22%	
2015	\$9,048,556	942	160	17%	
2014	\$3,971,417	778	148	19%	
2013	\$4,362,840	825	168	20%	
2012	\$3,553,696	730	161	22%	
2011	\$1,244,200	829	106	13%	
Average	\$3,945,583	752	151		\$40 - 50 million

\* includes structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, water hazard incidents, and hazardous conditions incidents

### What if Arlington self-insured?

- Could we fund better prevention activities that reduce our costly claims?
- Could we better understand our own behaviors that create property and auto claims?
- As a community could we pay less for property and auto insurance?
- Could we establish a new source of revenue?